

## A note on the status of *Falco concolor* in southeastern Africa

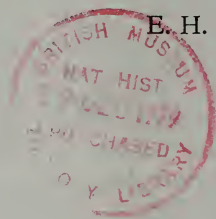
In my article 'Sight records of the Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* in Zambia' (Bull. B.O.C. 1979: 99(2): 63-65) I inferred criticism on the comment made by R. J. Dowsett in Snow 1978 *An Atlas of Speciation in African Non-passerine Birds* that records from southeastern Africa should have been 'December and March' not 'December to March'. However I overlooked a record (Clancey, 1970 *Ostrich*: 261) of a specimen collected on the Natal/Cape border on 16 January 1967. This January record is likely to be of a bird 'wintering' in this area and thus Dowsett's comment to this effect is more tenable even though the records are so scarce as to suggest that it 'winters' in this area very irregularly in small numbers.

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### BOOKS RECEIVED

Davis, R. P. 1979. *The Protection of Wild Birds*. Pp. 18. Soft covers. Barry Rose: Chichester. £1.25.

The author discusses the realities of the efficacy of The Protection of Birds Acts 1954-1967 and the execution of their provisions and finds them wanting as a deterrent either because of the difficulties of law enforcement or through lack of firm dealing with offenders. The fourth chapter is a useful guide to those concerned with prosecutions.

Todd, F. S. 1979. *Waterfowl. Ducks, Geese and Swans of the World*. Pp. 414, over 750 colour photographs. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich: London. £25.00.

The beautiful illustrations, the portraits mainly of captive birds, will be the big attraction of this elegant book, but the text is comprehensive, authoritative and most readable, covering all the families and tribes. There are some very salient points and opinions expressed in the final chapter 'Man and the future of waterfowl'. The appendix 'Concise reference guide to the waterfowl' is in tabular form and should be most useful as a quick source of information.

Walter, H. 1979. *Eleanora's Falcon*. Pp. xii+410, 59 line drawings, 38 photographs. University of Chicago Press: Chicago. £24.50.

An expert's well expressed views resulting from many years study of this much admired European falcon on its Mediterranean island colonies and on its long migration to Madagascar. The sub-title 'Adaptations to prey and habitat in a social raptor' indicates the scientific approach adopted and it is backed up by a great quantity of analysed data given in 38 tables, 59 figures and 4 appendices, but with a comparatively discursive text. There is a long bibliography.